feedstock for fertilizer and methoenoal production; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to jointly assess the possibilities with ONGC/GAIL/Government of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The present availability of gas from the fields of ONGC in Tripura is to the extent of 3.0 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD). As against this, the total allocation in 1.8 MMSCMD.

(b) and (c) A High Level Monitoring Committee on Production and Utilization of Natural Gas in Tripura has been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas comprising members from Government of Tripura, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Department of Fertilizers, ONGC, GAIL, EIL and Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Government of Tripura has also constituted a Parallel Task Force for utilization of natural gas in the State of Tripura.

Efforts for making productive use of the available gas in Tripura in various fields including fertilizer production are afoot at the level of the Government of India as well as the State Government.

Sick Units of IDPL

147. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector units of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Ltd. (IDPL) have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the reasons for their sickness;

(c) the number of employees in each unit of IDPL;

(d) whether these employees have not been paid their salaries and other allowances;

(e) if so, since when; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to settle their disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) was declared sick by BIFR on 12th August, 1992. Reasons for sickness of IDPL as identified by the Industrial Development Bank of India, which carried out a study, are given in the statement *(See* below).

(c) Number of employees in each unit of IDPL as on 31.1.2000 is as under:

Name of the Unit	Total No. of Employees
(i) Rishikesh	2691
(ii) Hyderabad	3210
(iii) Gurgaon	555
(iv) Corporate Office	74
(v) Marketing Division	651
Wholly owned subsidiaries	
(i) Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Ltd., Muzzafarpur	209
(ii) IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd. Chennai	319
Total	7709

(d) to (f) Government has been releasing funds to IDPL from time to time to enable payment of wages and salaries to the employees of IDPL; such funds have been released for expenditure involved upto December, 1999.

Statement

Reasons identified by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Mumbai for sickness of IDPL:

- ► Incidence of social objectives
- ► Emphasis on formulations for sales to institutional market

- ► Manufacture of bulk drugs from basic stages
- ► Inadequate emphasis on sales of formulations to the trade market
- ► Most products being under price control
- ► High employment costs
- ► Incidence of policy change with regard to import of bulk drugs
- ► High interest burden
- ► Decline in budgetary support
- ► Inherited second rate technology
- ► Inadequacies, particularly in the centralized utilities and services and locational disadvantages.

Development of FACT

148. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for development and improvement of FACT;

(b) whether any proposal has been submitted by FACT in this regard with the consultation of union leaders of FACT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The Government has made provision of Rs. 35.00 crore as budgetary support during the current financial year for FACT to enable it to implement essential renewals and replacements and upgradation schemes directed towards improving the health of its plants and their overall performance.

(b) and (c) A proposal seeking reliefs and concessions, *inter-alia* including waiver of interest on Government loans for the ammonia replacement plant, conversion of the balance loan into equity and